

EXPLOSION CONTAINMENT NET**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a net that is draped over a bomb-laden person, which net helps minimize the explosive force of the detonated bomb, as well as helps contain the explosive force that results from a detonation of the bomb.

2. Background of the Prior Art

Many young fanatics strap several pounds of explosives about their bodies, go to a crowded gathering spot, and detonate the explosives, killing and maiming many people gathered in the crowd. While such homicide bombings are quite perplexing to those of sound mind and rational thought, they are nevertheless, one of the tools of modern day terrorists and a sobering reminder of the times we live in.

Steps are being taken to minimize these homicide bombings, the chief among them is to identify the homicide bomber and isolate the bomber before he or she can get amongst a large crowd of innocent targets. Once identified, the would-be homicide bomber is either forcibly escorted away from the crowd or killed in his tracks in order to avoid unnecessary death and injury.

While such steps tend to be effective in preventing wide spread death and injury, such steps are not without drawbacks. In order to usher the homicide bomber away from a crowd, one or more security personnel (or brave good Samaritans) are typically used to physically prevent the homicide bomber from reaching the desired target area. Such security personnel tend to have the physical strength to accomplish this task, however, the homicide bomber, knowing that the main target has been foiled, detonates the explosives strapped about the bomber, killing or injuring the security personnel that is ushering the bomber away from a crowded civilian area. Although the loss of life tends to be less than would be occasioned if the homicide bomber reaches the intended target, the loss of the brave security personnel is still unacceptable.

Another method commonly used to minimize the loss of life and limb in the event of a homicide bomber is simply to shoot the bomber once identified. Typically, the shot is aimed at the torso of the bomber, whereat the explosives are strapped, in order to detonate the explosives and thereby stop the bomber dead in his tracks. This method, while also generally effective has a threefold problem. In the first place, many homicide bombers are identified upon reaching the periphery of the target area. Such locations tends to be other than thinly occupied and if the shot at the bomber misses, an innocent bystander may be struck. Additionally, the explosive pack about the bomber may cause injury to those in the vicinity of the bomber. Again, while such diffusion of the homicide bomber is preferred over the prospect of the bomber exploding the bomb belt in the thick of a crowd, the death or injury of anyone other than the homicide bomber is undesired and must be minimized. Another problem with this method is that if the alleged homicide bomber is inadvertently misidentified, an innocent person could be shot.

Ideally, a system needs to be established that allows security personnel, upon the identification of a potential homicide bomber, to be able to contain the homicide bomber, and if the homicide bomber explodes the bomb pack strapped about the bomber, to be able to minimize and

contain the explosive blast. Such a system needs to be of relatively simple and straightforward construction and must have relatively simple operational deployment. Such a system must minimize the potential for injury to innocent bystanders, and must prevent serious injury or death to a person who is misidentified as a homicide bomber.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The explosion containment net of the present invention addresses the aforementioned needs in the art. Specifically, the explosion containment net allows security personnel, upon the identification of a potential homicide bomber, to be able to contain a homicide bomber in his or her tracks, and if the homicide bomber explodes the bomb pack strapped about the bomber, the security personnel are able to minimize and contain the explosive blast, thereby greatly reducing death and injury to innocent bystanders. The explosion containment net is relatively simple and straightforward construction and operational deployment of the system is relatively simple and easy. The explosion containment net minimize helps prevent serious injury or death to a person who is misidentified as a homicide bomber in the event that the explosion containment net is deployed upon an innocent person.

The explosion containment net of the present invention is comprised of a net manufactured from an explosion containment material, such as aramid (sold under the trademark KEVLAR and manufactured by the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company), the net having an outer periphery and a nozzle. A gun is provided that is capable of propelling the net at a desired target such as an explosive-laden device. A first tank has fire suppressant agent therein while a conduit extends between the first tank and the nozzle. The gun propels the net at the explosive-laden device and the fire suppressant agent is discharged out through the nozzle once the gun propels the net. The net contains the explosive force from the explosive-laden device and the fire suppressant agent minimizes the explosive force. A second tank is provided and has a high density foam therein such that the conduit also extends between this second tank and the nozzle and the high density foam is also discharged once the gun propels the net and the high density foam also helps minimize the explosive force of the explosive-laden device. The nozzle may be located at a central point of the net while a plurality of pleats extend radially outwardly from the central point of the net, the pleats being stitched together. At least one weight is located about the outer periphery of the net. The gun may use either pneumatic force or a firing cartridge to propel the net. The fire suppressant agent may be FE-36 clean agent fire extinguishant or may be selected from the group consisting of: Halon 1211, Halon 1301, IG-541, HFC-227ea, HFC-2 (FE13), HCFC Blend A, Carbon Dioxide, high expansion foam, protein foam, AFFF, microbial containing foam, Carbon Tetrachloride, dry powder extinguishant, and wet chemical extinguishant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the explosion containment net of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an elevation view of the net of the explosion containment system with the pleats in a non-expanded state.

FIG. 3 is a close-up view of detail 3 in FIG. 2 with the pleats in a non-expanded state.

FIG. 4 is a close-up view of the pleats in an expanded state.

FIG. 5 is an elevation view of the net of the explosion containment system with the pleats in an expanded state.